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Third Mobster Linked to

United Press International

Charles Nicoletti, a gangland enforcer described as a key man in a CIA-crime syndicate plot to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, has paid with his life for disputes with the mob over CIA influence in the syndicate.

Two other Mafia members tied to a CIA plot to kill Castro already have been killed gangland style. And on Tuesday, a man described as a mysterious friend of Lee Harvey Oswald, killed himself in Palm Beach, Fla., reportedly to avoid testifying in a House panel's investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination. The probe also is delving into the CIA-Cuba connections.

Sprague ready to settle score with Rep. Gonzalez. Page 54.
Sandy Grady tells what made Sprague resign. Page 64.

Nicoletti, 60, of Melrose Park, Ill., once capo of Chicago mob hitmen, died yesterday — the victim of a mob assassination.

He was pulled from his burning car in the parking lot of a suburban restaurant Tuesday night after being shot three times in the back of the head at point-blank range. Police said

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CIA-Castro Plot Is Slain

he died without regaining consciousness.

Sources said Nicoletti, onetime right-hand man to slain mob boss Sam Giancana and once considered the logical successor to the top spot in the Chicago mob, had been responsible for drawing up CIA-ordered plans for the assassination of Castro in October 1963 after a meeting of top mob leaders in Miami. They also said he broke with the mob following Giancana's death because he felt the CIA "Was taking over the oepration."

Nicoletti broke with the mob following Giancana's 1975 murder. Associates said he believed the CIA had influenced the decision to order Giancana "hit" shortly after he returned from Mexico, where he had holed up to avoid testifying in a probe of CIA-mob involvements.

In Palm Beach, meanwhile, authorities said they were holding the "certain personal papers" of apparent suicide victim George de Mohrenschildt, the mysterious friend of Oswald and a "key witness" in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

De Mohrenschildt has been described by sources as a former CIA agent.

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Deputies said de Mohrenschildt killed himself late Tuesday in a drawing room at socialite Charles Tilton [illegible] waterfront mansion with a shotgun belonging to his host. The death was ruled a suicide by Palm Beach County medical examiner Dr. Gamaliel Cuevas.

The suicide apparently occurred about an hour after de Mohrenschildt learned that former Philadelphia magazine writer Gaeton J. Fonzi, an investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, called from Miami and indicated he wanted him to testify about Oswald and the Kennedy assassination.

The Russian-born professor, according to previously secret minutes of the Assassinations Committee, "was responsible" for the activities of the late Oswald in Dallas.

The minutes of a closed session March 17 also included testimony that the professor had indicated "there were others involved in the actual shooting" of Kennedy.

According to the transcript, staff member Robert Tannenbaum said Willem Oltmans, a Dutch journalist who had covered the Kennedy assassination, approached the committee to say "he befriended a fellow who looms in the shadows of this whole investigation. His name is George de Mohrenschildt."

Oltmans, according to the transcript, said de Mohrenschildt had been in contact with him for 11 years

and had visited him [illegible] ..and several weeks ago.

"The purpose of his trip was to divulge for the first time his knowledge of the assassination of the President, and he indicated that he was responsible for Oswald's activity, and that there were others involved in the actual shooting of the president," Tannenbaum reported.

Involved With Oswald

"What is significant, of course," Tannenbaum told the committee, "is that George de Mohrenschildt is one person — I really have to underscore this — who is involved with Lee Harvey Oswald as a part of history, that is, he befriended Oswald and had his daughter care for Oswald's wife and child while Oswald was living at a YMCA in Texas; so he is a person that is not a John Doe, who is coming forward, giving a confession to someone in the media."

Tannenbaum said he had lost contact with de Mohrenschildt, but said "we have indicated to him that his information indeed was new, sensitive and unique and required further investigation, which, in fact, it does."

DeMohrenschildt, 65, an emigre from czarist Russia, denied in testimony to the Warren Commission that he had been an agent for any government, but sources in Miami and West Palm Beach said he had been a CIA agent in Haiti in 1963, the year Kennedy was slain in Dallas.

De Mohrenschildt was [illegible] petroleum geologist and recently became a French teacher at Dallas Bishop College.

As far as the three gangland style deaths of Mafia members, some have dismissed the killings as the latest outgrowth in one of Chicago's largest underworld bloodbaths.

Others see the deaths as part of a pattern surrounding the investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Giancana, a Chicago racketeer, who the Rockefeller Commission said collaborated with the CIA to kill Castro, was gunned down in his home in the Chicago suburbs in June, 1975.

John Roselli, tied to the plot with Giancana, was found last August stuffed in a chain-wrapped 55-gallon drum in an arm of Biscayne Bay in Miami.